

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03333 092017Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EUR-12 /090 W
-----010116 101450Z /47

R 091127Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8337
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NY
SECDEF
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3333

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SY, IQ
SUBJECT: SYRO-IRAQI RELATIONS

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDY TOLD CHARGE JUNE 8
THAT HE SAW NO NEAR TERM PROSPECT FOR SYRIAN-IRAQI RECONCILIA-
TION. SYRIA CONTINUED TO BE READY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS, HE SAID,
BUT IRAQ HAD NOT RECIPROCATED IN ANY WAY.

2. DAOUDY SAID SITUATION HAD NOT CHANGED SINCE PRES.
BOUMEDIENE'S ATTEMPTED MEDIATION LAST JANUARY. ASSAD HAD
DISARMED BOUMEDIENE COMPLETELY BY SAYING, "TELL ME
WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO AND I WILL DO IT." BOUTEFLIKA HAD
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HAD FLOWN TO BAGHDAD AND SADDAM HUSSEIN HAD REFUSED
EVEN TO SEE HIM.

3. DAOUDY DISMISSED CURRENT TENSIONS BETWEEN IRAQ AND
SOVIET UNION AS MARGINAL MATTERS. THEY WOULD NOT AFFECT
THE "STRATEGIC BASE" OF IRAQI-SOVIET RELATIONS, HE SAID.
THE IRAQIS HAD MADE THIS CLEAR BOTH DIRECTLY, IN COMMAND

MEMBER NADIM HADDAD'S STATEMENT, AND INDIRECTLY,
THROUGH AN ARTICLE IN AN-NAHAR IN BEIRUT.

4. COMMENT: DAOUDY'S REMARKS SEEM TO UNDERCUT THOSE OF HIS OWN FOREIGN MINISTER WHO PREDICTED TO PEOPLE'S COUNCIL JUNE 5 THAT IRAQ WOULD BREAK ITS FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION, THUS PROMPTING HADDAD'S ANGRY REBUTTAL. SYRIA, WHICH HAS ALWAYS REFUSED TO SIGN SUCH A TREATY, MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO EMBARRASS IRAQ OR TO SUGGEST THAT SUCH A TREATY IS UNNECESSARY FOR A VIABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIETS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DAMASC03333
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780243-0570
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780678/aaaacosu.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 97e7c58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2422063
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRO-IRAQI RELATIONS PRESIDENTIAL POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDY TOLD CHARGE JUNE 8 THAT HE SAW NO NEAR TERM PROSPECT FOR SYRIAN-IRAQI
TAGS: PEPR, SY, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/97e7c58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014